

hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide, and

detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

21. (Reiterated) A method of claim 20, wherein the probe comprises at least 30 contiguous nucleotides.

22. (Reiterated) A method of claim 20, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

**REMARKS**

No new matter has been added by these amendments. Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment, and consideration of the pending claims. If there are any questions regarding the above, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Applicants believe that no fee is due with this communication. However, if the USPTO determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 09-0108.

This form is enclosed in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

INCYTE GENOMICS, INC.

Date: 1/8/01

  
P. Ben Wang, J.D.  
Reg. No. 41,420  
Direct Dial Telephone: (650) 621-7574

3160 Porter Drive  
Palo Alto, California 94304  
Phone: (650) 855-0555  
Fax: (650) 849-8886

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